

anniversary

51 years ago today  
how about that folks?  
give the little couple  
a great big hand  
no June wedding for them  
no sir  
a nice cold January day in Boston  
the groom has been dead  
for almost a decade  
let's give him a great big hand  
she was a bookkeeper  
at the Century restaurant  
he drove for Checker cab in Boston  
their song was Two Sleepy People  
by Fats Waller  
during the war he bought his own  
cab company  
eventually he bought a Chevy dealership  
crashed & burned  
the marriage in tatters  
after 17 years  
they both found their future spouses  
while working at their respective newsstands  
his wife was a little older but wealthy  
her husband a lot younger  
but he had an inheritance  
& so it went  
just another happy story  
from a Depression era couple

May 22nd

she used to luck out  
mother's day & her birthday  
a double shot in one month  
shows like Family Ties  
don't even come close  
maybe they aren't supposed to  
she'll be 74 on May 22nd  
I used to love her a lot  
it took me years to realize  
that she's hazardous to my health  
my father had been flayed alive  
her second husband  
20 years younger than she  
tries to ignore her  
or endure it in silence



her daughter changed religions/husbands  
stabilized now with 2 granddaughters  
a house overlooking the beach  
her son moved around  
had lots of jobs/breakdowns  
it was alcohol & women  
in the midst of all this  
was/is the family bully  
endlessly congratulating herself  
for being strong  
for being a good mother  
for being healthy & stable  
for being honest  
monologues are her specialty  
it's taken me years  
to give up my seat  
at all of her performances

Monty wasn't all that jaunty

he had a sour stomach  
his burps were more like gasps  
he farted constantly  
gastric distress  
his frustrations settled in his guts  
by the time he reached his mid 50s  
they had to open him up  
found all that scar tissue  
they had to remove a piece of him  
as the years passed  
they would open him up some more  
then came the colostomy  
he lived with that  
until he could no longer  
hold down any food  
he summarized his appearance in one word  
Auschwitz  
he kept telling me to kill him  
but the idea of serving  
on a chain gang in Florida  
to alleviate the suffering of a dying man  
seemed a little excessive at the time

grounds for optimism

the future is never more  
than one second away